MANIFEST SONS OF GOD

A 14-Day Devotional Meditations on Divine Sonship

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Manifest Sons of God:
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Written by G. A. N. James, PhD

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Preface

The purpose of this 14-Day Devotional Meditations on Divine Sonship is to draw believers into a living awareness that God's eternal purpose is being fulfilled in this present generation through the birth and manifestation of His sons. Sonship is not a theological idea to be debated, nor an aspiration to be achieved. It is the divine life of Christ reproduced in those who have been born of God.

Each meditation gently leads the heart beyond religious forms and into the reality of spiritual union with Christ — the Firstborn Son — whose image, nature, and glory are now expressed in His many sons. These pages invite the reader to behold the wonder of divine sonship, to rest in the Father's love, and to walk in the radiant life of Christ in the midst of a darkened world.

It is my prayer that as you journey through these meditations, the Spirit will enlighten your heart, awaken your inner man, and deepen your fellowship with the Father who has called you, chosen you, and placed within you the life of His Son. May each day's reflection stir you to live consciously as a son or daughter of God, shining as a light in this present world.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God." — 1 John 3:2

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Day 1: The Eternal Purpose — Bringing Forth Sons unto Glory

(Introduction to the Devotional Series on Sonship and Its Manifestation)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved" — Ephesians 1:3-6.

From the dawn of eternity, before angels were formed or worlds were framed, God purposed one supreme intention — to bring forth sons in His image and likeness. This is the hidden mystery behind all creation, redemption, and revelation: that the invisible God might be expressed in a family of sons who share His nature, character, and life.

Yet through the centuries, the Christian world has become absorbed with religious titles, ranks, offices, and denominations — things which, though outwardly respectable, often obscure this central truth. The divine call is not primarily to a religious system but to a relationship with God, not to religious identity but to divine sonship. "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29).

Before the foundation of the world, God's heart was set upon having a people who would not merely worship Him from afar, but who would share His very life. As Paul declares:

"He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world… having predestined us unto the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will" (Ephesians 1:4–5).

This adoption of sons (Greek huiothesia) means more than legal acceptance; it is the divine placing of sons who manifest the Father's glory. They are those to whom God has imparted the Spirit of His Son, by whom they cry, "Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6).

The world waits — not for another denomination or ecclesiastical structure — but for the manifestation of the sons of God, those through whom the divine life becomes visible in purity, love, and truth. As Paul wrote: “The earnest expectation of the creation waits for the manifestation of the sons of God” (Romans 8:19). This is the climax of God’s purpose: Christ living and revealed in His people, who are the visible expression of the invisible God.

Let every devotional that follows this introduction awaken our hearts to that calling — to walk as sons of light in a darkened world, in union with Christ, the Son: “That He might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Romans 8:29).

May these meditations kindle in every reader the realization that the Christian life is not a religious pursuit, but a divine participation in the life of the Son of God. For as John writes,

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God” (1 John 3:2).

Day 2: Chosen Before the Foundation of the World — According to His Will

"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." — Ephesians 1:4–5

Before there was light or time, before all creation, God had already purposed in Himself a family of sons who would share His life and bear His image. Our calling to be sons of God did not begin on earth; it began in God. We did not choose Him, but in His eternal counsel, He chose and predestined us to be His sons, to express His nature in holiness and blamelessness before Him in love.

This divine choice and predestination are not the result of any outward influence but sprung from the pleasure of His own will — "according to the good pleasure of His will." The Father's will was decisively relational, not institutional: to bring forth sons unto Himself, sons who reflect His heart and glory, not to establish rigid structures or organizations.

To fulfill His will, He came into the world in Christ to reconcile us to Himself, to bring us into union, communion, and fellowship with Him. God wanted to have a personal relationship with us. God is Spirit and to bring us into communion with Him, He first births us into spirit beings who are His sons. This is the essence of His purpose in choosing and predestinating us to be His sons before the foundation of the world, prior to the formation of formal institutions, systems, cultures, traditions, and laws.

This is glorious truth!

God's will in choosing us to be His sons is clear. God did not choose us to be merely organizational units, loyal traditionalists, religious adherents or moral reformers but living expressions of the life of His Son. In this eternal choice lies our identity, dignity, and destiny. The rudiments of this world are temporal and destructible, but the offspring of God are eternal.

To be chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world means that nothing of time, failure, or circumstance can undo the purpose of God in us. Sonship

has its origin, perfection, and completeness in the eternal God through Christ.

We are not accidents of time; we are eternal intents of God manifested in time, according to the good pleasure of His will. Our lives are the unfolding of His eternal purpose — that the invisible God might be revealed in visible sons.

Heart-Reflection

As you ponder this profound truth, let your soul rest in the quiet assurance of God's eternal choice and predestination. Pause in His presence and let the Spirit awaken in you the living response of a son to the Father who chose you according to the good pleasure of His will. Let gratitude rise for His unchanging purpose — that He willed to make you His son before the world began. Yield your heart to His creative power; listen for the inward whisper of the Spirit who confirms that you are His son. Let this awareness awaken you to walk before Him in simplicity, trust, and love, shining the light of His image through your living and walking in this dark world.

Day 3: Chosen Before the Foundation of the World — According to His Glorious Grace

"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to… the praise of the glory of His glorious grace." — Ephesians 1:4–5-6

Before creation dawned, before the foundations of the world were laid, God purposed in Himself to reveal His goodness through grace. The election of sons was never a reaction to human failure nor a reward for human effort, but the eternal expression of His benevolent heart — grace overflowing from the depths of divine love.

Grace is not a supplement to merit, nor a concession to weakness. It is the unconditional benevolence of God extended without being deserved or desired. It is the very origin of sonship. By grace, we were chosen; by grace, we were predestined; by grace, we were reconciled into union with God in Christ; by grace, we were "born not… of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:13). Thus, every son of God stands as the living testimony of divine favour — "to the praise of the glory of His grace."

Paul reminds us: "There is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise, grace is no longer grace" (Romans 11:5–6). Grace silences all boasting, removes all striving, and reveals that the source and sustenance of our new life are wholly of God. The sons of God exist to display His glorious grace in this world — grace that makes us holy, blameless, and perfect in love before the Father.

The foundation of the election and predestination of sons is the grace of God. The purpose of God in this is to rouse profound gratitude and praise to Him in the hearts of His sons for forming and executing this plan. The truth is that, left to us, in our nature of sin propelled by a mind in enmity against God, reveling in the pleasures of worldly lusts, we would not and could not become holy sons of God (Rom 8:7), This is made quite evident by the ridicule and rejection of salvation by the unsaved. But we who are sons of God will never cease to praise God for giving to us this great salvation full and free.

Heart-Reflection

This is amazing grace! Let your soul rest in awe before the majesty of divine grace. Let gratitude rise unceasingly that you are who you are — a son of God by grace alone. May this realization shape your worship, your walk, and your witness that your life, being the life of His Son you, may reflect His holiness and proclaim the glory of His grace forever.

Day 4: Called According to His Purpose

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.” — Romans 8:28–29

From eternity, God not only chose His sons according to the pleasure of His sovereign will and to the praise of His glorious grace but also called them in time to participate in His purpose. What is His purpose for choosing and calling us? — “To be conformed to the image of His Son.” To this end, He has made us complete in Christ, who lives in us and radiates His glory and expresses His image through us.

God’s purpose governs every detail of our journey, expressing in us the likeness of Christ. What appears to human sight as confusion, delay, or struggle is divinely woven into the tapestry of grace to bring forth the character of the Son in us. Every circumstance, every path, and every experience becomes an instrument through which the purpose of God is worked out in us. The sons of God are born of God, not shaped by fortune or adversity, to fulfill the unchanging purpose of Him who works all things for good to us through changing seasons and situations.

We are the called according to His purpose, not our own. The call of God is not to promote ourselves but to partake of His divine nature. It is not an invitation to religion but a summons to the manifestation of His life on earth. He works in us to will and to do what pleases Him that we may be His holy sons radiating His light in this dark world (Philippians 2:13-15). To know we are called according to His purpose is to rest in the sovereign certainty that every step of our lives serves His eternal design.

Heart-Reflection

See your life not through the lens of events but through the purpose of God. Yield to His unchanging hand, knowing that every experience — joyful or painful — is divinely purposed to reveal His Son in you. Let your confidence rest in this: that His call is holy, His will perfect, His works are for your good, and His purpose sure.

Day 5: The Seed of God — The Life of Christ in Us

"Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever." — 1 Peter 1:23

The mystery of divine sonship begins with the mystery of divine birth. To be born again is not to receive a new religion but to receive a new life — the very life of the Son of God. Through the new birth, the believer is not merely reformed; he is regenerated, born of the seed of God — the incorruptible seed bearing the eternal life of Christ in the word of God — implanted within him by the Spirit. It is to be "born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."

Let us ponder on the divine mystery of the new birth. The seed that reproduces sons of God is not a religious doctrine or moral influence; it is the living essence of Christ Himself. It is the Word that was in the beginning, was with God, and was God (John1:1). It "became flesh" or was incarnate, taking the form of a man, Christ Jesus, the Son of God, having the divine "glory of the only begotten of the Father" (John 1:14). This is the Word, the incorruptible seed of God, having the power of the divine nature and life of the Son of God, that reproduces all who receive Him into sons of God.

Even as a plant derived all its characteristics from the seed from which it sprung, so the sons of God inherit the divine nature by being born of the seed of God. As the Scripture declares "You are partakers of the divine nature having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4). This is the mystery of the new birth — the birth of sons of God.

Human effort cannot produce it; education cannot cultivate it; religion cannot imitate it. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12–13). To receive Him — the incorruptible seed — is to receive the divine power to become a son of God. Therefore, your identity as a son of God is not a goal that you strive to reach but a life you have received — a life that unveils and manifests the glory of the Son of God in you.

Heart-Reflection

Let your heart quietly rejoice in the truth that you are born of God. The life that now flows in you is not of human origin, but divine in essence — coming from the very seed of God, the Son of God. Rest in this reality: you do not labor to become what God has already made you in Christ. Yield to the working of His indwelling life, that His nature may shine through your thoughts, your words, and your deeds.

Day 6: The Spirit of the Son — Crying Abba, Father

"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." — Galatians 4:6

Sonship is not something we try to feel, nor something we slowly grow into. It is a life that we have been born into. God did not give us a spirit of religious effort, by which we strive to be His son. He has not given us a spirit that is less of the character of His Son and progressively grows into the full character of His Son. He has given us the Spirit of His Son — the same Spirit that is in Jesus Christ.

When you are born again of the Spirit you are no longer in the flesh, driven by corrupt passions and desires and unable to please God. You are now a spirit-being having the Spirit of Christ, the Son of God, in a physical body. Your identity as a son of God is defined by the Spirit of Christ who indwells you and makes the members of your body instruments of His righteousness. Without having the Spirit of Christ, no one can be a son of God (Romans 8:9).

How glorious it is to have the Spirit of the Son within you. He communicates with you from within. He ministers to others through you from within you, as well as to you from within others. The divine bond of the Spirit that eternally sustains the constant fellowship and communion of sons of God with God and with one another universally is spiritually deep — deeper than the occasional assembling together to sing, dance, and pray, as wonderful as this is.

We worship God by the Spirit of the Son within, "crying, Abba, Father." This is not a recitation or formula, but the spontaneous outflow of a life that knows its Divine source. This cry is not an appeal to God to father us — it is God testifying within us that we are His sons. "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Romans 8:16).

Heart-Reflection

Acknowledge with quiet joy that the Spirit of the Son lives in you. You are not trying to become a son of God. You are a son of God, because the Father has given you the Spirit of the Son. Yield to His witness, His assurance, His nature, His holiness, His righteousness, His life, His cry within you — "Abba, Father."

Day 7: Led by the Spirit of God

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” — Romans 8:14

To be a son of God is not merely to carry a title — it is to live in a relationship of continual guidance by the Spirit and absolute dependence on God. The Spirit of God does not simply visit us from time to time; He dwells within us as our inner Companion, Teacher, and Guide. His leading is not forceful but gentle, keeping us in the way of Christ and influencing our decisions, desires, actions, and responses. To be led by the Spirit means to trust His wisdom above the reasoning of others, to yield our will to His voice, and to walk in step with the gentle movements of the grace of God within.

Jesus Himself is the pattern of a life led by the Spirit. At His baptism, the Father affirmed His identity when the Spirit in the form of a dove rested on Him: “This is My beloved Son.” Immediately afterward, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led by the Spirit into the wilderness” (Matthew 4:1). The path of the Spirit’s leading did not take Him to comfort, but to testing; yet it was in the wilderness that the Son’s divine obedience, trust, and authority were manifested. Being led by the Spirit does not always mean being led in a path of ease, but always in triumph and deep fellowship with the Father.

The Spirit who leads is also the Spirit of truth. Jesus promised, “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). God who has made us His sheep has tuned our hearts to hear His voice and follow Him, not another (John 10:27). In a world of confusion, deception, and multiple voices, the Spirit safeguards the hearts of God’s children. He illuminates Scripture, protects us from error, and causes the truth of Christ to shine in our understanding. “You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things” (1 John 2:20). This is not human cleverness, but the quiet discernment born of abiding in Him and guided by His Spirit into all truth.

To be led by the Spirit, then, involves living attentively in Him — listening and yielding to His voice. It is to walk the path where Christ goes before us, and to discover that every step taken under His guidance leads deeper into life, peace, and joyful communion with the Father.

Heart-Reflection

The Father has graciously given you the gift of the Holy Spirit who leads and guards your steps in His truth. Listen to His voice, trust His guidance, and yield your heart fully to His leading. By the leading of the Spirit, walk confidently as a son of God, in humility, obedience, and peace.

Day 8: The New Order of the Life of Sonship — A New Creation

"From now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." — 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

To be born again into sons of God is to participate in a birth that introduces us into an entirely new order of life — a new creation in Christ. The new birth is not God repairing what was broken, nor polishing what was imperfect. It is not the old self being improved. The Word of God tells us that the old has passed away — it has reached its end in the death of Christ. The identity we inherited from Adam — marked by weakness, sin, fear, and separation from God — was brought to its conclusion at the cross, "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with" (Romans 6:6). When Christ died, the old man died with Him. When He rose, a new life began, and that new life is the one we receive.

This new life is not a renewal of the old — it is divine in origin. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). We are now born of God. We exist not merely as improved human beings, but as new creations bearing the life of the heavenly Man, Christ Jesus. Scripture reveals that Christ is "the last Adam" and "a life-giving Spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45). As we have borne the image of the earthy man, the first Adam, we now bear the image of the Man from heaven, the last Adam, having been born again into sons of God (1 Corinthians 15:49). The believer's journey is not about striving to become spiritual — it is the unveiling of the spiritual life received by being born again of the Spirit.

Our task is not to rehabilitate the old nature, but to abide in Christ, allowing His life to express itself through us. As we live and walk in the Spirit in this newness of life, we discover new affections, new ways of thinking, new desires, and new strength — evidence that the life of Christ is our life. This is the divine sonship experience: the gradual unfolding of who we already are in Christ — a new creation people.

Heart-Reflection

Acknowledge, with reverence and quiet wonder, that you are a new creation

in Christ. The old have passed entirely. The new has already come. You walk not from earth toward heaven, but from heaven in the world — carrying the life, purity, love, and peace of the Son of God. Be thankful to the Father for bringing your old life to an end in the death of Christ, and for giving you new life in His Son. You now live from the Spirit, in quiet dependence and joyful obedience. Walk in the reality of your new creation identity in Christ, expressing the life of the heavenly Man in your thoughts, your words, and your actions.

Day 9: Conformed to the Image of His Son

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." — Romans 8:29

The divine purpose of election, predestination, calling, reconciliation, and grace finds its glorious fulfillment in conformity to the image of Christ. God's intention was never merely to forgive sinners, but to reproduce His holy Son in many sons — to bring forth a family bearing His likeness, being made partakers of the divine nature.

Christ, the Firstborn among many brethren, is the divine pattern. The sons of God are not replicas of human religion but living expressions of the divine nature. This conformity is not the product of moral effort but the outcome of transformation by the Spirit: "We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The transformation referred to in the Scripture text is not a progressive process from a lesser glory to a greater glory of the image of Christ in us. Rather, it testifies to our divine change into the glory of Christ witnessed by our faces reflecting in a mirror the same image of the glory of Christ — from the glory of Christ in our faces to the glory of Christ reflected in the mirror by our faces.

Our conformity to Christ is the outcome of the working of God in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure — to express the mind, the will, the love, the life, the full image of the Firstborn Son as "faultless sons in the midst of a corrupt and perverse world" (Philippians 2:13-15). In this, the Father beholds His Son multiplied in many sons — the corporate manifestation of Christ in His Body, the Church.

Heart-Reflection

Let the beauty of Christ be seen in you. Let every thought, desire, and action reflect His image. You are one in whom the Father can recognize His Son — a true son of God, conformed to the likeness of the Firstborn.

Day 10: You Are a Son of God

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” — Galatians 3:26

Our sonship is not something we obtain through human striving, moral effort, or religious achievement. It is the reproduction of the life of God in all who receive and believe in Christ. In Christ, God is not merely forgiving sinners — He is bringing forth sons. Sonship is the purpose behind redemption, reconciliation, and the gift of eternal life.

When we believed in Christ Jesus, something divine occurred — we were born of God (John 1:12–13). This birth was not of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God Himself. The life that now defines our being is the life of the Son. His relationship to the Father is now the relationship we share — not by imitation, but by union with Him.

To be a son of God means you are God’s own offspring — holy, beloved, acknowledged, and cherished. It means you no longer live according to your old identity formed by the world, the flesh, or the old creation. You live in the newness of the life of Christ, the Firstborn among many brethren.

This is not a truth to try to perceive by natural reasoning. It is not to be disputed or proved by human argument. It is a truth to receive by revelation from the Spirit and to walk in by faith. The Spirit confirms it, establishes it, and unfolds it in our consciousness day by day. “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:16),

Heart-Reflection

God, our Father, has spoken concerning your relationship with Him in Christ. You are His son. Do not strive to become who He has already made you to be. Instead, thank Him that you are His son, born of Him, sharing His nature and life. Accept and ponder on the Spirit’s witness with your spirit that you are a son of God, chosen and predestinated before the foundation of the world. Let your soul rest in the identity God has given you. You are a son through faith in Christ.

Day 11: Joint Heirs with Jesus

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God… heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ." — Romans 8:16-17

To be a son of God is already a wonder beyond measure — but the Scripture goes further. We are not merely called God's sons — we are heirs of God. And not only heirs of God — we are joint heirs with Christ.

This means that everything the Father has given to His beloved Son — the place of acceptance, the glory of divine fellowship, the inheritance of life, the authority of the Kingdom, the intimacy of the Father's love, the delight of divine purpose — He has given to all who are in Christ, for they share the life of Christ.

The Scripture affirms our joint inheritance with Christ through the saving grace of God. "God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:4-6:)

This inheritance is not stored away for the future only. The Spirit has been given now as the seal, guarantee, and foretaste of our inheritance. He is God indwelling us. When the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are sons of God, He is not merely reassuring us — He is awakening us to the reality that already defines our being and our relationship with God.

The inheritance we share with Christ is in God Himself through our union with Christ in God. We do not inherit things only — we inherit the Father, Jehovah Jireh, the provider of all things. "For all things are yours: whether… things present or things to come — all are yours. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's (1 Corinthians 3:21-23). And so, because Christ is our life, our inheritance is secure, eternal, and incorruptible in Christ. We are blessed by the Father "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

Heart-Reflection

Acknowledge with reverent gratitude that the Father has made you His heir in Christ. Do not look for earthly honor, recognition, or reward, for your inheritance is in the heavenlies in the eternal glory of the Father's love. Yield to the Spirit as He guides you to walk in the dignity, humility, joy, and holiness of one who shares the life of the Son. Let Christ be your treasure and your portion forever.

Day 12: As He Is, So We are in this World

"Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world" — 1 John 4:17

This revelation is one of the deepest affirmations of our identity in Christ. The Scripture does not say: As He was, nor as He will be, but: As He is — in His exalted glory — so are we in this world.

This is the present truth of our spiritual existence. Our life is not modeled after Christ as He walked in His earthly humanity, but in His risen Sonship, in the glory of His union with the Father. We do not look back to imitate Christ; we look within us to behold Him, for we share His present resurrection life.

"Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

The newness of life we now walk in is the life of the Son in glory. It is the measure, identity, and nature of the sons of God on earth.

This does not mean we are individual Christs. Christ is eternally the Only Begotten Son in the Godhead. We have been baptized by the Spirit into Him to be members of Him. He is now in essence a body of many members of which He is the Head. "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12). Therefore, we are His expression by grace, by participation, by new birth, sharing the same life, the same Spirit, the same fellowship with the Father. This is a deep and wonderful truth.

Consider the glorious reality of our union with Christ in God expressed by the profound truth conveyed in the prayer of Jesus to the Father: "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one and that… You have loved them as You have loved Me" (John 17:22-23).

This is why John says that the love of God perfected in us gives us boldness

“because as Christ is, so we are in this world.” Christ, having shared with us His glory, has made us fully accepted by the Father in Him. God loves us as He loves Him, and we share in the union of the Father and the Son — the Son in us, and the Father in the Son.

Our boldness is not self-confidence — it is Christ-confidence. It is the assurance that our life is hidden in Christ with God. “As He is, so are we in this world.”

Heart-Reflection

Acknowledge and yield to the truth that the life you now live is Christ living in you. As He is, so you are in this world — not by effort, not imitation, but by His grace, life, and love in you. Let your soul rest in this truth and let the Father’s love in you be the full expression of Christ in you.

Day 13: Lights of the World

"So that you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without fault, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. Among these you shine as lights in the world." — Philippians 2:15

We who are sons of God shine as lights in the world. We do not strive to shine. The Scripture does not command us to produce light. It says: "You shine" — you shine because the Light lives in you.

Christ is the Light of the world, and because He lives in us, His light becomes the radiant expression of our being. Light is not something we do — it is something we are, because Christ, the Light of the World, lives in us.

We are placed in the midst of this dark world, not to be influenced by it, but to manifest the light radiating from the life of the Son of God in us. The world is not transformed by argument, self-effort, or religious performance. It is illuminated by the quiet, steady shining of Christ in the sons of God.

God is the One who positions His lights in places that they shine at their optimum, according to His will. We are positioned — sometimes in obscure places, sometimes in visible places — according to the wisdom of God, so that our light may radiate to the hearts He has prepared to receive it.

Sons of God are "sons of light" (John 12:36). We do not try to shine. We simply let our light be what it is. We do not generate light, but transmit the glory of Christ in us, not by trying to become His light but by letting His light within us radiate through us.

Heart-Reflection

Give thanks to the Father that the Light of His Son dwells in you. Do not attempt to make yourself shine. Simply yield to the life of Christ in you, that His radiance may be seen in the way you speak, live, walk, and love. Accept where you are as His wisely determined location where you can radiate His light to the optimum. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Day 14: Manifesting the Glory of the Son in the World

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God! Therefore, the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. But we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” — 1 John 3:1–2

The manifestation of the sons of God is one of the most beautiful and misunderstood truths of our spiritual life. Many consider it to be a distant event yet to come — some future moment when God’s sons will suddenly appear in glory. But the apostle John speaks differently. He declares that now we are the sons of God. The glory of sonship is not something we wait to become; it is the divine life we already carry within us because Christ, the Son, lives in us.

This glory, however, is not always recognized. The world did not know Jesus when He walked among them, and it does not know those in whom He lives today. The eyes of many remain veiled, unable to see the presence of Christ shining through God’s sons. Yet this does not stop the Son of God from expressing His life in the sons of God; it simply means that not all are able to perceive it. For example, even when overhead clouds block its light in some areas, the sun continues to shine, and its light remains fully visible in cloudless areas.

When Scripture speaks of creation “waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God,” it is not describing a universal event in the future. It is describing a deep yearning for the unveiling of eyes that cannot yet see the reality that is already present. The sons of God are manifest in the world wherever Christ is living, loving, and shining through His people. But only those whose hearts the Spirit has opened can recognize this manifestation.

The manifestation of sonship, then, is the present revelation of Christ in us. It is His love flowing through our words and deeds, His power affirmed in our steadfastness in resisting the devil, overcoming the world, and being patient and peaceful in tribulation. His character is made visible in our godly actions. It is the quiet brightness of His life within us — often unnoticed by the world, but unmistakable to those whose eyes God has opened. “For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing” (2 Corinthians 2:15).

The appearing of Jesus at His second coming is not to bring forth sons, unlike what many expect. Rather, it is to confirm our sonship; to demonstrate we are like Him. As stated in our devotional's theme Scripture passage: "Beloved, now we are sons of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2). You do not have to await the second coming of Christ to be made a son of God. Now you are a son of God.

Heart-Reflection

You do not have to strive to show or prove yourself to be a son of God. The radiating life of Christ within you is the manifestation of your sonship to those whose eyes the Spirit has opened to see the glory of the Son of God in you. This is the beauty of true sonship: Christ living in you, revealed in you, a son of God without fault, in the midst of this crooked and perverse generation, shining His light in this dark and blinded world (Philippians 2:15).

As you walk in the Spirit, as you abide in the Father's love, as you yield to the life-giving presence of the Spirit of the Son in you, and His glory shines through you, be conscious of the divine truth that you are not a stranger to God wandering in the darkness of this world, but a manifest son of God, walking in the power and glory of the Son upon this earthly sod.

About the Author & the Publisher

About the Author

G. A. N. James, PhD has served the Body of Christ for nearly six decades in missionary ministry, pastoral care, teaching, writing, and spiritual counseling, proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom and the present truth of divine sonship across several nations.

Having devoted his life to walking in the Spirit and declaring the revealed Word of God without embellishment or tradition, he now devotes his time to Spirit-guided writing from a quiet place of retreat in Bombo, Uganda. He prefers no religious titles and identifies simply as a brother in Christ, a member of the Body of Christ, called to expound the truths of the new creation, divine sonship, and the Kingdom of God.

He freely distributes all his writings for the nourishment and edification of God's elect, trusting that the Spirit will carry the message to those appointed to receive it.

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